



# Focus on Timely Permit Decisions

## Our commitment for timely permit decisions

The Department of Ecology is dedicated to providing high-quality service through our commitment to timely permit decisions. To help measure our success, we have developed performance goals for each of our major permit types. These are listed below and are expressed in calendar days, unless otherwise noted.

### Air Quality Permits

#### Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD)

- We will inform permit applicants in writing whether their application is complete<sup>1</sup> within 30 days of receipt.
- A draft permit decision will be available for public comment within 60 days of receiving a complete application.
- Final PSD permit determinations will be issued as promptly as possible after the public comment period is closed. Our target is 120 days.
- The total time from receiving the application to issuing the final decision will be tracked and reported at least annually.

#### Notice of Construction (NOC)

- We will inform permit applicants in writing whether their application is complete<sup>1</sup> within 30 days of receipt.
- A draft permit decision will be available for public comment within 60 days of receiving a complete application.
- Final NOC permit determinations will be issued as promptly as possible after the public comment period is closed. Our target is 60 days.
- The total time from application receipt to the final decision will be tracked and reported at least annually.

#### Air Operating Permit (AOP)

- We will inform permit applicants in writing whether their application for new or renewed permits is complete<sup>1</sup> within 60 days of receipt.
- A draft permit or “notice of intent to deny” will be issued within 180 days of receiving a complete application.
- Final determinations on new or renewal AOP permits will be issued within 18 months of receiving a complete application.
- The total time from the date of application to the final permit decision will be tracked and reported at least annually.

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<sup>1</sup> Complete application means that necessary information has been submitted consistent with state law or permit guidance to evaluate the application and to determine applicable requirements. We may ask for modified information during the course of permit review.

## **Shoreline Management Permits**

### **Substantial Development Permits**

- We will inform local governments and permit applicants in writing of permit filing dates within seven days of Ecology receiving the local permit.

### **Conditional-Use Permits (CUP) and Variances**

- We will inform local governments and applicants in writing whether their permit applications are complete<sup>1</sup> within 14 days of receipt.
- Final determinations on CUPs and variances will be issued within 30 days of receiving a complete application.

## **Water Quality Permits**

### **Coastal Zone Management Act Consistency Determinations**

- Consistency determinations not involving an Army Corps of Engineers 404 permit and state 401 water quality certification will be acted on within 30 days of receiving the applicant's statement of consistency.

### **401 Water Quality Certifications**

- We will inform permit applicants in writing whether their application is complete<sup>1</sup> within 10 working days of receiving a Joint Aquatic Resource Permits Application.
- Final determinations on 90 percent of the projects needing an individual 401 water quality certification will be made within 90 days of receiving a complete application, unless the applicant requests more time.

### **Individual State and National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permits**

- We will inform permit applicants in writing whether their application is complete<sup>1</sup> within 60 days of receipt. If deemed incomplete, our response will itemize what is needed to make the application complete. (Target = Response provided to 90 percent of new applications received after November 1, 2002.)
- We will work with applicants to develop a permit issuance schedule that recognizes the applicants' business needs. (Target = Schedule established for 80 percent of new applications received after November 1, 2002.)

**General Stormwater Permits** (Tracking our timeliness for providing coverage under these permits is delayed as we are in the process of re-issuing them and developing a tracking system.)

- Final determinations on new applications for coverage under the industrial-stormwater general permit will be issued within 45 days of receiving an applicant's complete notice of intent. (Target = Decision made within 45 days on 90 percent of new applications received after July 1, 2003.)
- Final determinations on new applications for coverage under the construction-stormwater general permit will be issued within 45 days of receiving an applicant's complete notice of intent. (Target = Decision made within 45 days on 90 percent of new applications received after July 1, 2004.)